

Most of these specimens (86 per cent.) were obtained from female patients seen in private practice who were not expected to have a gonococcal infection. This explains the low percentage of positive isolations in comparison with the first series cited.

Comment

On the evidence presented, it seems justifiable to claim that the new medium is as satisfactory as the older and more complicated medium of Peizer. Compared with a chocolate agar, the new medium has the considerable advantage of transparency and firmness; and a technician who has once become accustomed to these advantages will certainly not wish to return to an opaque medium. Provided that a dissecting microscope is used to examine each culture plate, the recognition of *N. gonorrhoeae* colonies becomes a rapid and certain procedure well within the scope of most clinical bacteriology laboratories.

Summary

The medium here described combines the highly selective properties of Thayer-Martin chocolate agar with the transparency and firmness of the modified Peizer medium previously employed in this laboratory. It is simple to prepare in large or small amounts; and all the constituents except the blood serum are available commercially in powder form.

The results of evaluation studies, carried out on a large scale, are presented. The medium is highly acceptable to the technical staff responsible for its preparation and use.

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Un milieu de culture sélectif préparé facilement pour la culture du *Neisseria gonorrhoeae*

RÉSUMÉ

Le milieu décrit ici combine les propriétés hautement sélectives de la gélose chocolat de Thayer-Martin à celles de la transparence et de la fermeté du milieu modifié de Peizer jusqu'ici employé dans ce laboratoire. Il est facile de le préparer en grande ou en petite quantité; et tous les constituants excepté le sérum sanguin sont disponibles dans le commerce sous forme de poudres. Les résultats des études d'évaluation entreprises sur une grande échelle sont présentés. Ce milieu de culture est très prisé par le personnel technique responsable de sa préparation et de son usage.

BOOK REVIEW

***Treponema pallidum*. A Bibliographical Review of the Morphology, Culture and Survival of *T. pallidum* and Associated Organisms.** By R. R. WILLCOX and T. GUTHE. 1966. Supplement to Vol. 35 of the *Bulletin of the World Health Organization*, Geneva.

Many workers have tried to grow *Treponema pallidum* in artificial media and although success was claimed by some of the early workers, such as Noguchi and by Schereschewsky, their results have not been confirmed by others. Inability to grow the organism except in an animal host is a bar to obtaining sufficient quantities of treponemes for immunological and chemical studies and is hindering progress in many fields of research on treponemal disease, especially attempts to produce an artificial immunity by vaccination. The growth requirements of non-pathogenic treponemes have been widely studied in the hope that these might give clues to the needs of *T. pallidum* itself, so far without success.

A very large literature has accumulated round these and other aspects of the biology of treponemes and it is becoming difficult to see the wood for the trees. The authors of this review have done a very real service to all those interested in treponemes in providing a guide to the most important papers which have been published on the morphology, taxonomy, growth requirements, and behaviour in experimental animals of the disease-producing treponemes and of their saprophytic relatives. Over a thousand papers are cited by title and reference, ranging in time from that of Schaudinn and Hoffmann (1905) to some published in 1965. The review is of necessity bibliographical rather than critical and does not attempt to cover the serological response of the host to treponemal infection. It is a pity that such a useful compilation was not published in hard covers as it is a reference book which many venereologists will consult frequently. A.E.W.